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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/975,786	10/11/2001	Norman F. Sheppard JR.	17509-0020	9585
29052	7590	01/13/2004	EXAMINER	
SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP 999 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. ATLANTA, GA 30309			HAN, MARK K	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3763
DATE MAILED: 01/13/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/975,786	SHEPPARD ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mark K Han	3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 and 17-40 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-15 and 26-40 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 17-25 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 January 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 17-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,797,898 to Santini, Jr. et al. (hereinafter "Santini, Jr.").

Santini, Jr. '898 discloses a microchip reservoir device having reservoir 180, a primary electrode 120, a counter electrode 140 and a reference electrode (any other electrode). See Figure 5, col. 5, lines 5-27 and col. 5, line 64 through col. 6, line 4. In reference to claims 17, 18 and 20, the waveform claimed is considered to be a method in which the means for applying a time-varying potential can be used. The limitation is given little patentable weight because the means for applying a time-varying potential can be shown to be capable of being used in such a manner.

Response to Amendment

2. The declaration of John T. Santini, Jr. under 37 CFR 1.132 filed 29 October 2003 is sufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 1-15 and 26-34 based upon 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and §103(a).
3. The declaration of John T. Santini, Jr. under 37 CFR 1.132 filed 29 October 2003 is insufficient to overcome the rejection of claims 17-25 based upon 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as set forth

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in the last Office action because the facts presented are not relevant to the rejection at issue.

Please refer to the explanation of the rejection above.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-15 and 26-40 are allowed.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: In light of the declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 of John T. Santini, Jr., the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and §103(a) of claims 1-15 and 26-34 are hereby withdrawn. The subject matter of the independent claims could either not be found or was not suggested in the prior art of record. The subject matter not found was the step of applying a time-varying potential to the primary electrode where the potential is characterized by a waveform having a maximum potential effectively anodic to meet or exceed the corrosion potential of the primary electrode, thereby corroding the primary electrode in combination with the other elements (or steps) in the claims.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark K Han whose telephone number is 703-308-4543. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 703-308-3552. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.

mkh

Mark Han
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3763

mkh
January 12, 2004

Brian L. Casler
BRIAN L. CASLER
PATENT EXAMINER
SPEAKER OF THE PATENT OFFICE
1-202-205-9730